

'THIS IS OUR MUSIC'

Meaningfulness in
collaborative
music practices
with elderly people

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What is it about collaborative music practices with elderly people that makes them meaningful to participants?



Being here

I put my arms around my life
embracing it slowly

I am painting a house
I feel the autumn around me

I sit with familiar faces
some smiles some frowns

Somebody's pouring tea into my cup
and I can hear people singing
“Don't forget to live”

I put my arms around my life
Slowly embracing it

I can visit the past
but I can't live inside it

that's ok -
I can be here right now.

“The performance was very emotional. It is so recognizable. We know what the situation is, but [the musicians] go to such depth with the music. [They] touch all kinds of deeper levels.”

“[T]his is us; this is our music; this is the Odensehuis.”

“I think it made [the process] easier. Because we thought it would be really not done, [but] they said: ‘o this is already really good. If it is getting even better then, wow, great job, but this is already so great.’ [...] [F]or me, it was quite comforting that they already liked it so much and that we could be kind of proud of ourselves with what we’d already achieved.”

“In this project [...] we really know our audience. We know who they are, where they live, what they struggle with.”

“I also wanted to give them something by telling something about myself.”

Meaningfulness

“[I]ndividuals experience a state in which they find security, purpose, worthiness and/or importance through engagement in an activity of everyday life.”

(Craig, 2007 referring to Kielhofner, 1997)

Negotiating meaning

1. Music stands central;
2. Equality, mutuality, reciprocity;
3. Form of interaction is not fixed;
4. Meaningfulness lies in the contact.

Co-creation (Prahalad & Ramaswamy, 2004)

